

World Languages and Literatures Gazette, April 28, 2022

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Department of World  
Languages and Literatures

## Gazette

APRIL 28, 2022

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### Message from the Chair

It has been my great honor to serve as chair of the Department of World Languages and Literatures since January of 2014. After more than eight years as head of the department (and more than twenty in administration overall), I will be handing over the chair responsibilities to my colleague Dr. Robert Kelz in August, and I very much look forward to being part of the department under his leadership. It has been a pleasure working with my colleagues and our wonderful students, and I thank all of you for making my job so rewarding. I am excited about returning to teaching and working on my research on a full-time basis, not to mention remaining very much involved in the life of the department. I wish all of you a pleasant and restful summer!

Dr. Will Thompson

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### Congratulations to our Students!

We devote this last issue of the Gazette for the 2021-2022 academic year to our students, present and past, recognizing their many accomplishments. To our graduating students, we wish you all the best with your future endeavors, and hope you will let us know what you are doing in the future.

### Department Awards

Our **World Languages Outstanding Student Award** for 2021-2022 has been awarded to **Mikyla Bowen**, who was nominated by Dr. Yuki Matsuda, Dr. Hironori Nishi, and Shinobu Watanabe. Mikyla is graduating this semester summa cum laude with a double major in World Languages (Japanese) and Psychology

**Emily Haff** is the recipient of the **American Association of Teachers of French** Senior Award. Emily is also graduating this semester summa cum laude with a double major in World Languages (French) and Earth Sciences (Geoarchaeology). Emily was nominated for the AATF award by Dr. Will Thompson.

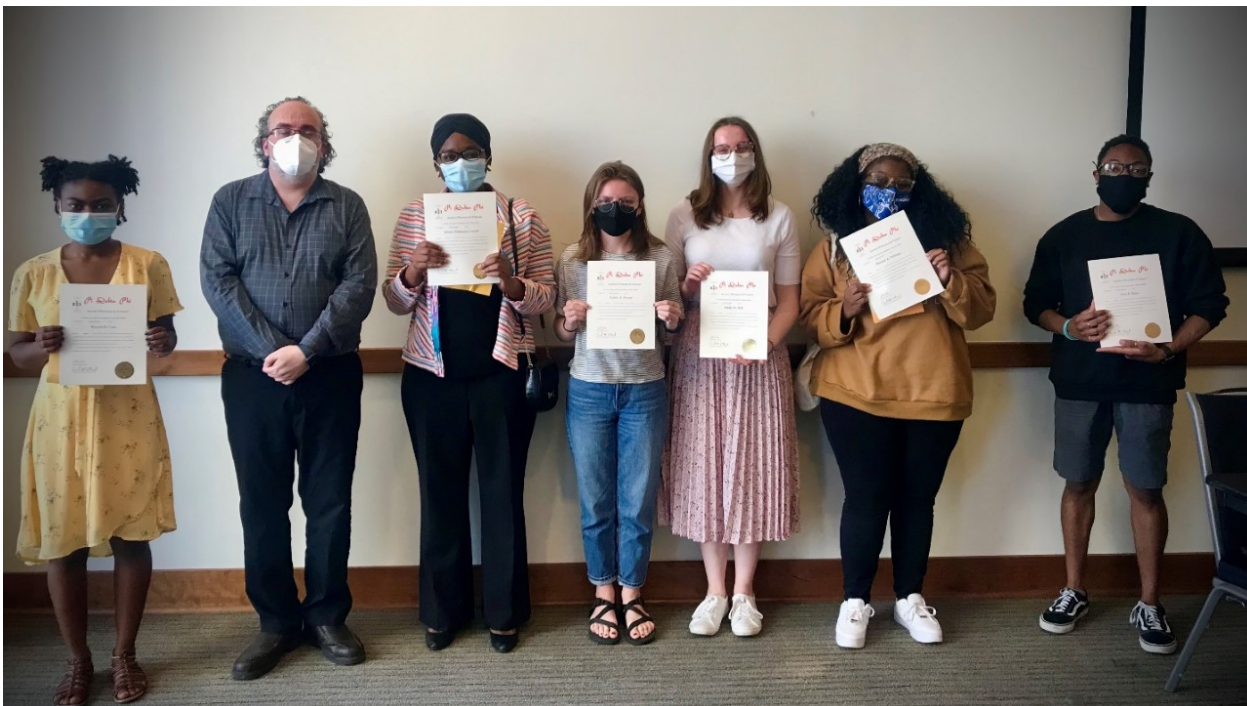
**Tyler Kimbrough** is the initial recipient of the **Grinspan Award**, which is awarded to a French major through the generous donation of Lee Grinspan, who has taken several French courses in the department as an Elite Auditor. Tyler will be doing a study abroad program in Lille, France this summer with the support of this award.

## Honors Societies

### French

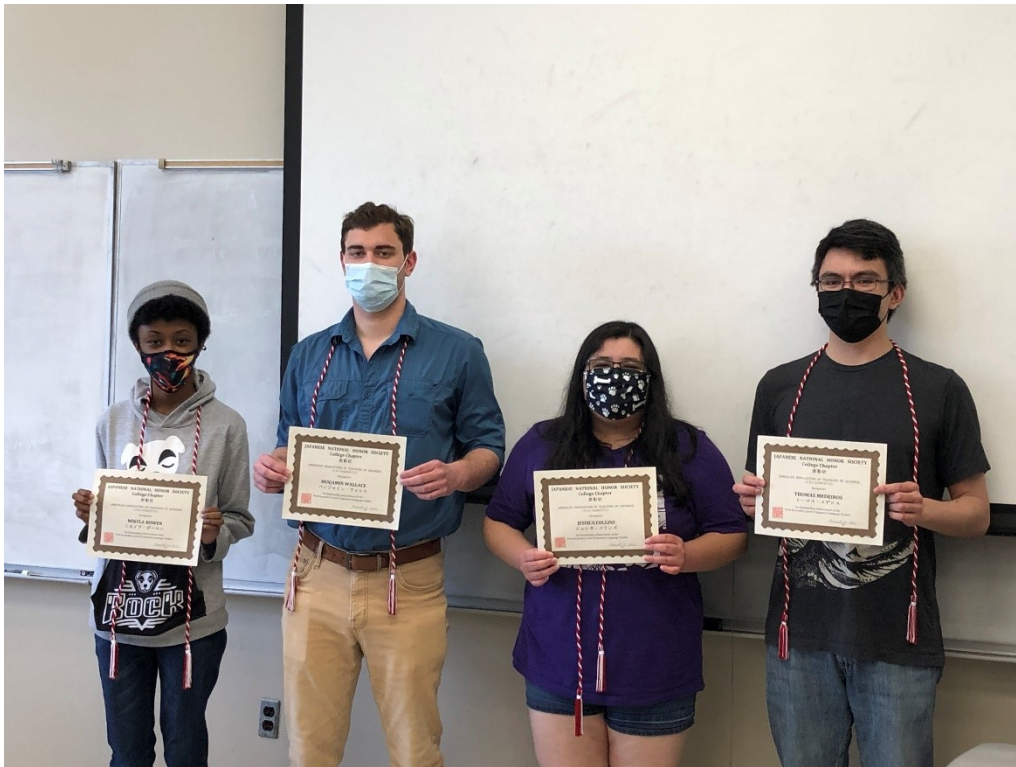
The following students were initiated into Pi Delta Phi, the French National Honor Society, on April 27: Undergraduates: Fatimata Bousso, Peter Boyd, Audrey Firrone, Christiana Flores, Emily Haff, David Martinez, Krystia Luss, Chaunteria Robinson; Graduates: Bibata Abdoulaye Lawali, Jonathan Smith, Rachael Williams.

Below: Krystia Luss, Dr. Errol O'Neill, Bibata Lawali, Audrey Firrone, Emily Haff, Rachael Williams, Peter Boyd.



### Japanese

At their last Language Table of the semester, the Japanese program celebrated their students' accomplishments. Five students were inducted into the Japanese National Honor Society. Below: Mikyla Bowen, Benjamin Wallace, Jessica Collins, Thomas Medeiros (not pictured: Precious Fox).



## Other Student Accomplishments

Former student **Jonathan Jones-Edwards** (who was our 2016 Outstanding Student Award recipient and who also completed an M.A. in Spanish with us) has been accepted into the doctoral program at the University of California at Berkeley.

**Sophia Rouse**, a double major in German and History, has been admitted to the graduate program (in History) at Texas A&M. She will begin in August.

Congratulations to three Italian Program students that received internships! **Camden Kegley** and **Vivianna Follin**, Summer 2022 Internship from Voluntaritaly - Dante Alighieri Society of Michigan (Counselor at an Italian Summer camp for Italian students); **Michael Joiner**, Teaching Assistant in a Lombardia school in Italy (Sept 2022 -May 2023).

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## Other Accomplishments

Congratulations to **Samia Khouzam**, French teacher at St. Mary's Episcopal School, who is the 2022 recipient of the **University of Memphis Language Fair Teacher of the Year Award**. Samia was presented the award in a surprise ceremony in her classroom on April 26. As part of the award she received a \$500 travel voucher from EF Education First.

From left to right: Dr. Will Thompson, Chair, World Languages and Literatures, University of Memphis; Malia Rummell, EF Education First; Samia Khouzam; Lauren Rogers, Head of the Upper School at St. Mary's Episcopal School.



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## Faculty Accomplishments

**Dr. Benjamin Sparks** presented his paper “The Poetics of Exile Between Languages and Continents” at the 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Kentucky Foreign Language Conference on April 21.

**Dr. Will Thompson** presented “Portrayals of the French Creoles of the American Midwest” at L’École du Soldat, Ste. Genevieve MO, on April 23.

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